an act of constructing a network message in accordance with a message format that is recognized by the service, the network message representing a request to perform the operation on the data structure; and

an act of dispatching the network message to the service.

56. (New) A method in accordance with Claim 55, wherein the act of dispatching the network message to the service comprises dispatching the network message directly to the service without first communicating with a locator service.

57. (New) A method in accordance with Claim 55, wherein the data that is to be operated on is not directly accessed by the plurality of applications, but is only accessed via the service.

58. (New) A method in accordance with Claim 55, wherein the act of constructing a network message in accordance with a message format that is recognized by the service comprises the following:

an act of constructing a network message in accordance with the Simple Object Access Protocol.

59. (New) A method in accordance with Claim 55, wherein the act of dispatching the network message to the service comprises the following:

an act of dispatching the network request to a locator service that maintains a list of addresses for type-specific data services corresponding to the identity.--